

Clinical Laboratory Update

July 2020

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHD participates in Virtual Wisconsin SURRG Annual Team Meeting

Staff from the MHD Laboratory and Sexual Reproductive Health Program recently participated in the 4th annual SURRG (Strengthening U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea) Wisconsin team meeting, held virtually July 30-31 and hosted by Health Care Education and Training (HCET). Participants also included WI DHS, CDC and clinical grant partners. The meeting focused on project accomplishments and goals for the CDC ELC SURRG grant, now entering its 5th year. Participants also discussed the impact of COVID-19 on at-risk populations who receive STD testing/treatment services at Milwaukee SURRG clinics. For more on SURRG and efforts to combat antibiotic resistant gonorrhea, visit www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg/carb.htm.

MHDL partners with local agencies to provide rapid COVID testing

MHDL has been partnering with local academic and community organizations to provide rapid COVID-19 testing to high-risk and underserved populations. This ongoing partnership has allowed for rapid detection of positive individuals to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in settings such as congregate living, student and homeless shelters. The testing locations are provided with site assessments, training on POC testing procedures and best lab practices, and education about CLIA and other regulatory requirements.

MHDL staff co-author publications

MHDL staff co-authored two recent publications on COVID-19 related research – “[A prospective cohort study in non-hospitalized household contacts with SARS-CoV-2 infection: symptom profiles and symptom change over time](#),” published in the July 2020 issue of Clinical Infectious Diseases, and “[Household transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States](#),” accepted for future publication in the same journal.

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of June is included as a supplement to this report.

Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing Instructions](#)

[MHDL COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

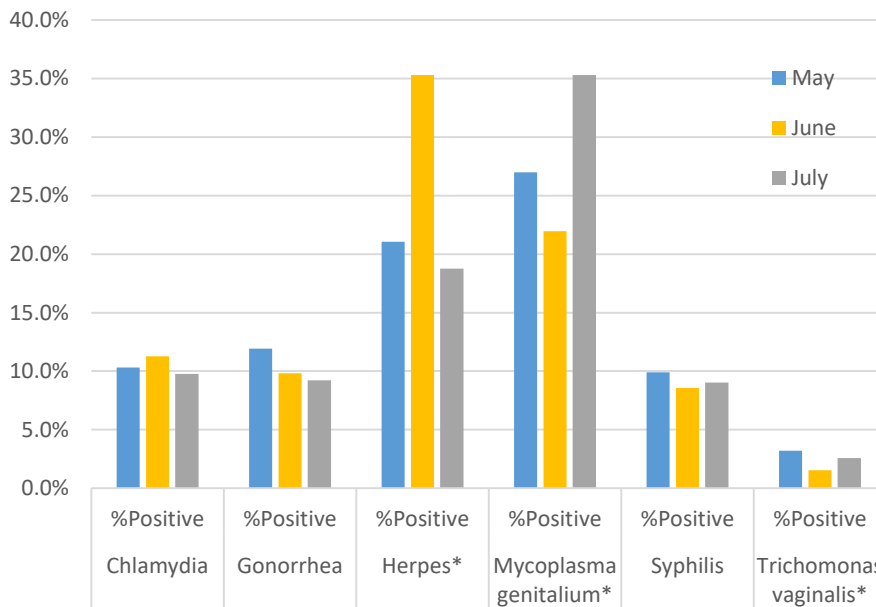


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

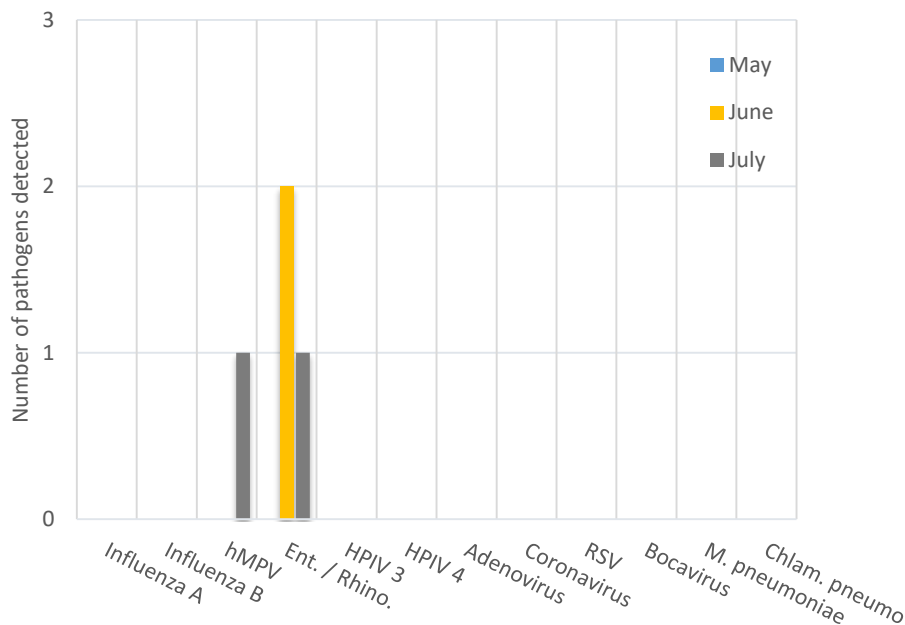


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

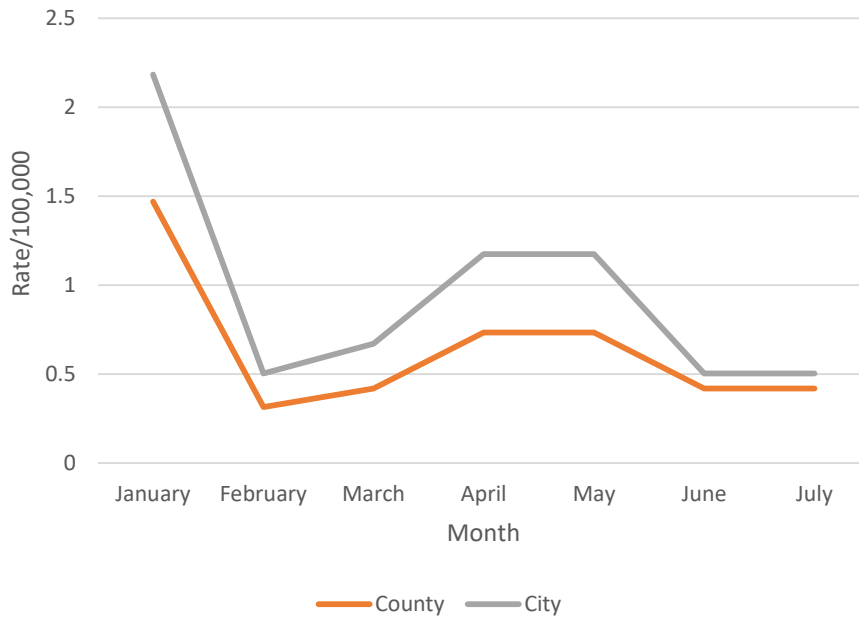


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

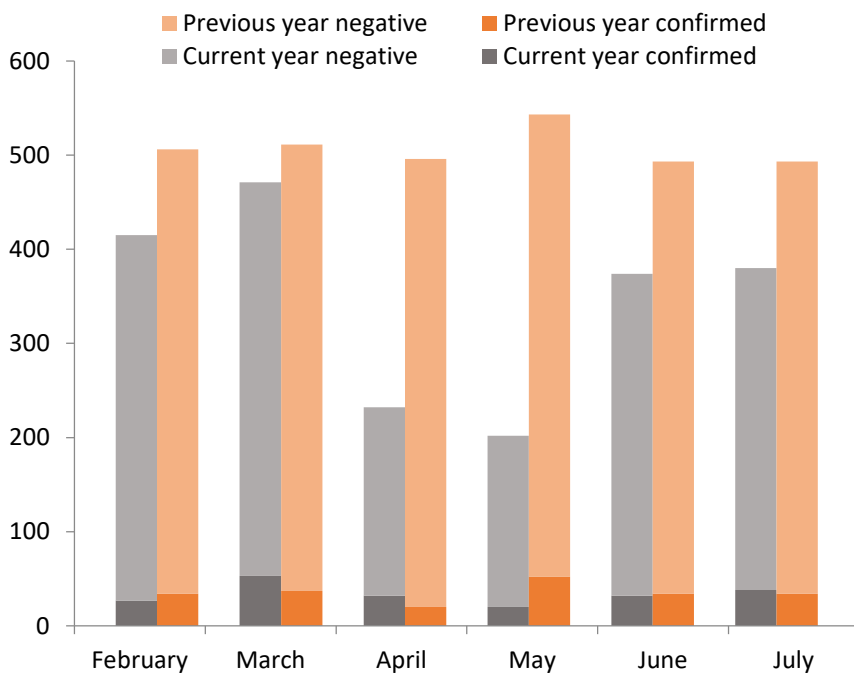


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

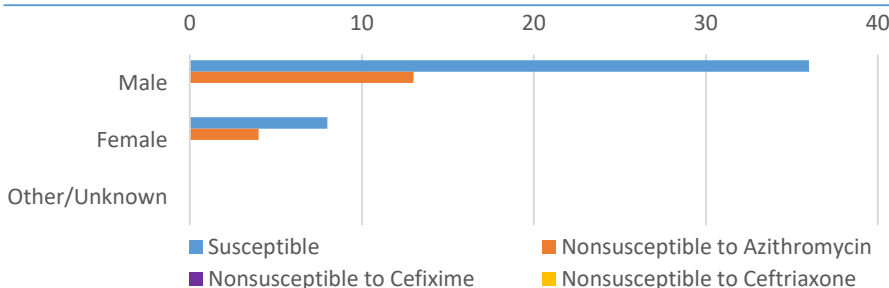


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In July 2020, 17 of 61 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

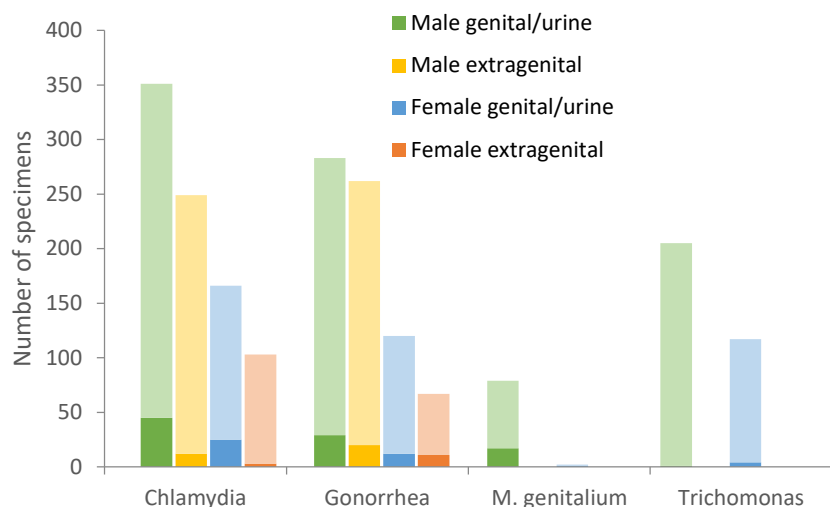


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In July 2020, 9.5% of male and 10.4% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 9.9% of male and 7.8% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 32.5% of male and all four female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 1.1% of male specimens and 4.9% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

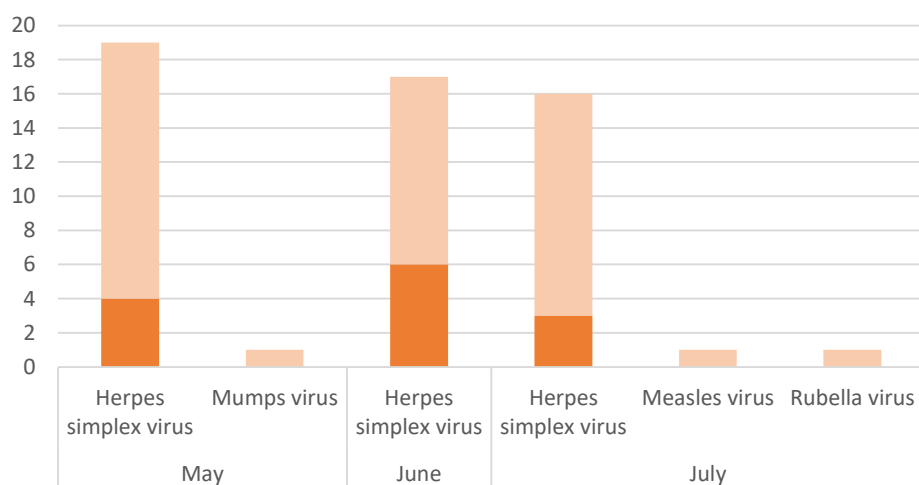


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

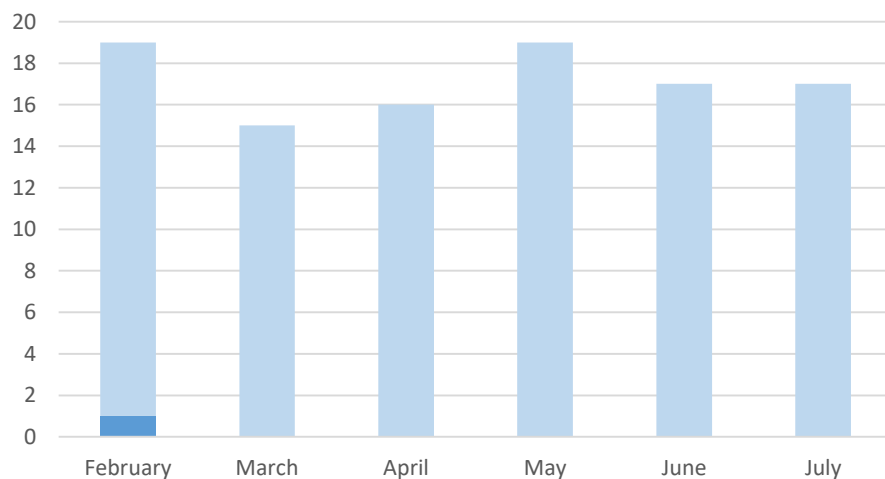


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.